



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

*"To protect and improve  
the health and environment  
of the people of Colorado."*

# NEWS

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## **Owens Announces Grants to Benefit Communities Affected by Environmental Violations**

**DENVER** – Gov. Bill Owens today announced that seven community-based projects will receive more than \$900,000 in assistance through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

"Schools, small businesses, lower income families and migrant farm workers are among those who will benefit from these Health Department grants," Owens said. "The projects will benefit communities that have been affected adversely by environmental violations by using the settlements that were negotiated as a result of the violations."

The projects represent a mixture of business, academic, non-profit and government partnerships. Projects selected to receive funding are:

- ? **Boulder Energy Conservation Center** This project will increase energy efficiency and reduce air pollutant emissions for identified lower-income residences through the installation of solar domestic hot water systems and weatherization of homes. Total funding: \$90,000.
- ? **Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation** This project will reduce energy costs for families and air pollutant emissions through upgrades to 90 residential housing units in Northeast Denver. Improvements include switching from electric to gas heating, and energy efficient windows and appliances. Total funding: \$180,000.
- ? **Colorado Governors Office of Energy Management and Conservation** This project will increase the utilization of cost-effective alternative energy technology in Pueblo County schools through the identification of geexchange systems, evaluation of cost-effectiveness and applicability, and leveraging of resulting energy savings to help pay for future projects. Total funding: \$65,000.
- ? **Northeast Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance** This project will implement renewable energy strategies targeting facility, process and fleet improvements at small businesses in the Northeast Denver metropolitan area. Total funding: \$90,000.

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- ? **Pueblo County** This project will reduce energy usage and air pollutant emissions from the Via Don Carlos community by at least 30 percent through upgrades to the system that meets the community's daily electrical needs. The Via Don Carlos community provides housing for migrant farm workers in Pueblo County. Total funding: \$253,000.
- ? **Pueblo County Public Works** This project will assist Pueblo County in converting county-owned, gasoline-powered vehicles into hybrid vehicles. As part of the project, the Pueblo City-County Health Department also will obtain a new hybrid vehicle. Total funding: \$102,000.
- ? **Weld County School District 6** This project will augment bond money set aside to upgrade mechanical systems and kitchen facilities at 17 schools by incorporating innovative building technologies into renovation activities. Examples include more efficient kitchen equipment and lighting upgrades. Total funding: \$127,500.

The non-profit Strategic Environmental Project Pipeline (StEPP) Foundation will oversee the projects on behalf of the businesses, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the grant recipients. The foundation is based in Golden.

The Department of Public Health and Environment and other regulators have negotiated settlements in a variety of violation cases that include requirements for environmental projects to benefit affected Colorado communities. A portion of financial penalties agreed upon can be targeted at funding such projects, thereby benefiting the communities harmed by the violations.

Funding for these supplemental environmental projects are the result of settlements with Conoco Inc., Duke Energy Field Services and Rocky Mountain Steel Mills.

The projects are put through a systematic review and selection process. Once a project idea is submitted, subcommittees review a more detailed proposal and make recommendations to the full StEPP Foundation Board of Directors. The board, in turn, makes recommendations to the Department of Public Health and Environment, which must decide if the selected projects meet the negotiated requirements of each related settlement.

Subcommittees consist of at least one StEPP board member and four or five professionals from pertinent and/or related fields. Participants represent business, government, academia and non-profit sectors. Subcommittee members include experts in economic development, renewable energy, community development, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and environmental leadership.

For more information on the StEPP Foundation, environmental projects, the application process or other related matters, please visit the StEPP Foundation's website at <http://www.stepfoundation.org/>.